

depositing a first layer on the semiconductor substrate, the first layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of organic polymeric materials, α C, α FC, SiCOH, and SiC;

exposing the first layer to a plasma consisting essentially of an inert gas; and
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25. The method of claim 24, wherein the first layer comprises silicon carbide.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the inert gas is He.

E² 28. The method of claim 25, wherein the inert gas is He.

sub E³ 30. The method of claim 24, wherein the exposing the first layer to the plasma comprises flowing the inert gas into a processing chamber at a rate of about 100 to about 4000 sccm, establishing a chamber pressure between about 1 to about 12 Torr, and applying RF power to an electrode of the processing chamber to provide a power density of about 0.7 to about 11 W/in².

31. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the exposing the first layer to the plasma and the depositing the first layer are performed in a single processing chamber.

32. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the exposing the first layer to the plasma and the depositing the first layer are performed in a single processing chamber.

33. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the first layer comprises silicon carbide and the exposing the first layer to the plasma does not substantially change a composition of the first layer as detected by a fourier transform infrared analysis.

34. (Amended) A method of processing a semiconductor substrate, comprising:
depositing a first layer on a semiconductor substrate, the first layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of SiCOH and SiC;
treating the first layer with a plasma consisting essentially of an inert gas; and
depositing a second layer comprising silicon over the first layer.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the treating the first layer increases the oxidation resistance of the first layer.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein the treating the first layer prevents delamination of the second layer from the first layer. **BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

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